




Tunstall Urban District Council



MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1904.



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Medical Officer's Report

For the year ending December, 1904.

TO THE TUNSTALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT, and regret, that owing to the prevalence throughout the year of various epidemics, the statistics at my disposal do not enable me to present quite so favourable a report as I was privileged to give for the preceding year.

POPULATION.

On the 1st of April the added areas of Chell and Goldenhill came under your control, and with the inclusion of such, the estimated population now amounts to 26,420. The following statistics are based upon these figures and take in the extended district for the whole year.

BIRTHS.

922 Births have been registered during the year. Of these 493 are male births and 429 female births, giving a birth rate of 34·9 per 1000 living. This rate is 1·4 per 1000 less than that recorded for 1903, and indeed is the lowest birth rate experienced during the past ten years. In addition I find the interments of 46 still-born children have been registered at the Cemetery.

DEATHS.

575 Deaths have been registered during the year. Of these 300 were males and 275 females, and indicate an annual rate of mortality of 21·7 per 1000 of the estimated population. If we exclude the Workhouse from our calculations, the death rate works out at 20·4 per 1000.

I am sorry the favourable rate* for the preceding year has not been maintained, the present one being 3·4 per 1000 greater. Less favourable meteorological conditions and the prevalence of various epidemic diseases have contributed to bring about the rise in the death rate.

The following table shews the vital statistics of the whole district for 1904 and previous ten years.

Year.	Population Estimated to Middle of each year.	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Instit'ions in the District.	Deaths of non-residents registered in Public In- stitutions in the district	Deaths of residents re- gistered in Public Insti- tutions beyond district	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to District	
		Num- ber	Rate	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages					Num ber	Rate
				Num ber	Rate per 1000 bi'ths reg.	Num ber	Rate					
1894	16065	653	40·6	113	173	320	19·9					
1895	16362	644	39·3	186	288	428	26·1					
1896	16510	732	44·3	142	194	347	21					
1897	16658	665	39·9	156	234	349	20·9					
1898	16807	701	41·7	163	232	430	25·5					
1899	16956	700	41·2	126	181	383	22·5					
1900	18516	795	42·9	141	241	544	29·3					
1901	19492	708	36·3	156	221	455	23·3	22			455	23·3
1902	19962	816	40·8	145	177·6	396	19·8	30			426	21·3
1903	20334	739	40·6	135	182	373	18·3	19			392	19·2
Averages for years 1904·3	17766·	715	40·3	146	212	404	22·6					
1904	26420	922	34·9	226	245	575	21·7	57	40	4	539	29·4

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The subjoined statistics shew no improvement in the infantile mortality, in fact a condition of things quite the opposite. The deaths of children under one year of age during 1903, number 226. This number represents an infant mortality of 245 per 1000 births registered, and with one exception is the highest rate recorded for the past ten years.

The serious rise thus shewn can be partly explained by prevalence of measles and whooping cough during the year,

the complications attending the latter disease having been particularly fatal to young children. The other factors contributing to the high rate are discussed year after year, and it is very disheartening to find so little progress made. Our efforts must be directed to the instruction of the rising generation in the simple laws of personal hygiene, and to the improving of the houses in which the masses of our population must not only live but rear their children. Conditions which might be possible to a seasoned adult are impossible, or highly prejudicial, to children, to whom the dwelling-house is, next to the parent, the thing of most importance in life.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The number of deaths from the principal epidemic diseases, viz: Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria Whooping Cough, Enteric Fever, and Diarrhœa during 1904 was 73. Diarrhœa is responsible for 33 of this total. The rate works out at 2·7 per 1000, as compared with 1·18 for the preceding year. Small Pox was again introduced to the town during the year, but, curiously enough, was limited to the same number of cases as in 1903, viz: 7. The vigorous and generous measures adopted by your Sanitary Committee were largely instrumental in limiting the epidemic to the above small compass.

Diphtheria has only claimed 3 victims during the year, and I am pleased to say the epidemic has now largely subsided, being limited to a few sporadic cases.

DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

have caused 78 deaths, a slight increase over the preceding year. Of these 45 have been attributed to convulsions in young children.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

have caused 112 deaths, an increase of 34 as compared with the preceding year. The increase came about chiefly in the months of November and December, when Pneumonia and Bronchitis claimed many victims among young children. As I pointed out last year, many of the children are hope-

lessly handicapped in their struggle with these diseases, owing to their unsatisfactory surroundings and the lack of intelligent nursing.

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES

have caused 75 deaths, an increase of 29 when compared with the preceding year. 24 of the cases have been from Phthisis, giving a rate of .9 per 1000. A system of voluntary notification of Phthisis might be adopted with advantage, as your Sanitary Inspector would then be in a position to give advice as to the precautions which should be taken in the house of the patient, especially as to the manner in which the sputum should be dealt with, and the disinfection of the house which has been occupied by the patient, either after death or removal.

67 deaths have been registered under ill defined causes, such as Marasmus, Congenital Debility and Inanition, and as the mortality is almost entirely among young children of the lower classes, the causes of the above are to be found in defective vigour of the parents, want of cleanliness in the homes, and ignorance in the feeding and nursing of the children.

VACCINATION.

I have been unable to obtain a return of the number of successful vaccinations done during the year. Re-vaccination was largely adopted during the out break of Small Pox.

REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL AND ASHES.

Since this work has been done under the supervision of your Inspector, there has been a vast improvement in the cleanliness of the town. I have occasion, daily, to go through the back entries of the streets, and very rarely have had occasion to complain of accumulations. Attention should be given to the defective arrangements, in many instances, which exist in the new district of Goldenhill, for the depositing of ashes and house refuse, and it would be well to issue a general order to all the landlords of Goldenhill requesting them to see that proper receptacles for ashes are provided for all houses where such are not already supplied.

Steady progress is being made in abolishing existing privies, no fewer than 249 having been converted into water closets. I trust no time will be lost in putting the district known as High Park, Chell, into a good condition as regards the pavement and streets. There has been a great deal of illness there during the year, and I have a suspicion that it is associated with the disorder caused by the placing of new sewers and consequent irregularity of the streets and passages.

BACK ENTRIES.

Constant attention is being given to the paving of these entries and only those of recent construction remain to be done.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shews the number of cases of Infectious sickness notified during the year:—

Small Pox	...	...	7 cases
Diphtheria	...	...	35 „
Membranous Croup	...	...	3 „
Erysipelas	...	...	20 „
Scarlet Fever	...	...	179 „
Enteric Fever	..	...	19 „
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1 „

All the cases of Small Pox, 20 cases of Scarlet Fever 5 cases of Diphtheria and 4 cases of Enteric Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital. I have been anxious to remove more cases to the Hospital, but have been unable to secure further admissions, owing to the limited capacity of the Hospital. Where the patient remained at home, isolation has been secured as far as practicable, personal advice given, and each house wherein attacks were notified has been thoroughly disinfected.

WATER SUPPLY

has been as usual. I have heard no complaints, either with regard to the quality of the water or the constancy and sufficiency of the supply.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

I beg to submit my third Annual Report under the Factory and Workshop Act. Systematic visits have been paid to all the known workshops, both by myself and the Sanitary Inspector. In no instance was there any overcrowding, and ventilation every where was found to be quite satisfactory. In 10 instances we found reason to complain of a want of cleanliness in the workshop, chiefly owing to a lack of white washing, while in 5 cases the sanitary conveniences were insufficient. These defects have been obviated. Bakehouses are all in a very satisfactory condition, and no underground bakehouses are to be found in the town.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PARTINGTON.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecution
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries) WORKSHOPS... .. (Including Workshop Laundries) WORKPLACES HOMEWORKERS' PREMISES ..	232	16	None
TOTAL			

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of defects	
	Found	Remed'd
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>		
Want of Cleanliness	10	10
Want of Ventilation	None	
Overcrowding	None	
Want of drainage of floors	None	
Other Nuisances	None	
Sanitary accommodations { insufficient... ..	5	5
{ unsuitable or defect'e		
{ not separate for sex		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>		
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses... (S. 101)	None	
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses (SS. 97 to 100)		
Failure as regards lists of out workers (S. 107)		
Giving out work to be { unwholesome (S. 108	None	
done in premises which are { infected (S. 110)	None	
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in pre- mises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox ... (S. 109)	None	
Other Offences		
TOTAL	15	15

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

Done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1904 in the Urban Sanitary District of Tunstall.

						Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	...	...	...	478	216	418
		Structural Defects	..	...	...	427	197	393
		Overcrowding	...	..	...	3		3
	{	Unfit for Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Lodging-houses (Inspected by Police)	...	...	...	...	..	...
		Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	60	23	23
		Cowsheds	...	...	...	94	12	12
		Bakehouses	...	...	...	42	3	3
		Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	180	2	2
		Canal Boats	...	...	...	91	5	5
House Drainage	{	Ashpits and Privies repaired	...	...	...	194	79	173
		Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	7	7	7
		Water Closets,	..	...	...	272	191	249
	{	Defective Traps	...	..	...	17	16	13
		No Disconnection	...	...	...	25	...	25
		Other Faults	...	...	...	81	54	76
		Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Pigsties	...	...	...	9	9	9
		Animals improperly kept...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Offensive Trades	...	...	...	12	..	...
		Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	3	2	2
		Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...
		TOTALS	...	...	..	1995	416	1413

Seizures of Unwholesome Meat (Surrendered)	...	...	Nos.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	...	166
„ „ Found Adulterated	...	...	...
„ of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...
„ „ Condemned as unfit for use	...	...	...

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	...	...	...
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	47
Schools ditto ditto	...	...	2
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	...	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	...	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...	...

Disinfectants have been supplied and freely used in any cases under this heading.

(Signed), J. F. ADDISON, Inspector of Nuisances.

Date 17th Jan., 1905

